

## CLAIM

1. A thermally expandable microcapsule,  
which contains a shell polymer and a volatile  
5 expanding agent becoming gaseous at a temperature not  
higher than a softening point of said shell polymer, said  
shell polymer containing a nitrile monomer component in an  
amount 70% by weight or more and a content of an  
acrylonitrile component in said nitrile monomer component  
10 being 40 to 85% by weight, and the volatile expanding agent  
containing a volatile expanding agent having a branched-  
chain structure or a cyclic structure in an amount 30% by  
weight or more.